

Appl. No. : 09/876,281
Filed : June 6, 2001

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

None.

Identification of Claims Discussed

Claims 1 and 27.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

U.S. Patents No. 4,540,402 to Aigner, 5,785,686 to Runge, 6,083,198 to Afzal, and PCT Publication WO 99/59652, published November 25, 1999.

Proposed Amendments

Discussed language to more clearly distinguish over the prior art of record and to put claims in condition for allowance.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

Discussed the teachings of the prior art and how they differ from the claims.

Results of Interview

Amendments to put Claims 1 and 27 in condition for allowance were discussed and such amendments are submitted herewith.

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REMARKS

Applicants initially would like to thank Examiner Bockelman for courtesies extended to Applicants' representative in connection with an interview held on June 7, 2004, summarized above.

By way of summary, Claims 1 and 3-51 were pending in this application. Of these, Claims 3, 13-26, 31-37, 42, 46, and 49 previously were withdrawn. Withdrawn Claims 17-26, 31-37, 42, 46, and 49 are canceled herein. Claims 38-41, 43-45, 47-48, and 50-51 also are canceled herein. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3-16, and 27-30 remain pending for consideration.

Applicants do not agree that Claims 1 and 27 and the other previously presented claims are not allowable in their unamended form. However, Claims 1 and 27 have been amended, as summarized above, to expedite allowance of the claims. In particular, it was suggested that Claims 1 and 27 be amended as set forth herein to more clearly distinguish the prior art. Claims 4-12 depend from Claim 1 and further define the invention defined in Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 4-12 are in condition for allowance. Claims 3 and 13-16 were previously withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species. Applicants submit that these claims also should be allowable because Claim 1 is allowable and therefore is generic to the non-elected species set forth in these claims. Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 1 and 3-16. Claims 28-30 depend from Claim 27. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 28-30 are allowable at least for the same reasons that Claim 27 is allowable. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the previously filed claims in their original or similar form in a continuing application.

Applicants respectfully assert that the present application is in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued at the earliest opportunity. If there be any further impediment to the issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number set forth below to resolve such issues.

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Respectfully submitted,

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